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Poet William Pitt Root presents reading at University of Montana in Missoula

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local + cs +POET WILLIAM PITT ROOT PRESENTS READING
AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA IN MISSOULA

MISSOULA--

Poet William Pitt Root, who has had poems published in more than 200 magazines, recently (Nov. 15) presented a poetry reading at the University of Montana in Missoula, following one-week poetry sessions in several southeastern Montana communities.

The one-week poetry sessions, sponsored by the Montana Arts Council under the MAC's Montana Poetry-in-the-Schools program, were held on the Crow Reservation in Pryor and Lodge Grass and on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer.

At the UM poetry reading, Root said he enjoys teaching in primary and secondary schools "because the ice is thin over the imagination at those ages, and in some children the ice hasn't even formed yet."

Giving some background information, Root said: "I enjoy traveling and teaching. Frequently I've been fortunate enough to combine the two. I've taught at Amherst College, Michigan State, Slippery Rock State and MidPeninsula Free University.

"As a poet in the schools, I've worked with students from the third through the 12th grades in urban, suburban and rural situations in Idaho, Vermont, Arizona, New Mexico (which included periods on the Hopi and Navajo reservations) and in Texas.

"At other times I've worked in factories, warehouses and a shipyard. I've also worked as an underground blaster in a copper mine, a bouncer, a stock clerk, a maitre d' and a teamster."

Root's poems have appeared in numerous periodicals, including "The New Yorker," "The Atlantic," "The Nation," "Poetry," "Harpers Magazine," "Poetry Northwest," "Ramparts" and others. He has published two volumes of poetry with Atheneum Press, "The Storm and Other Poems" and "Striking the Dark Air for Music."

Root received his B.A. degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, and his M.F.A. degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1965 and 1967, respectively.

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